Aircraft such as Kiran MK-II, HPT 32 and the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) are of HAL's own design and manufacture, while aircraft such as Jaguar, Mig-27M, Dornier-228 Aircraft and Cheetah/Chetak Helicopters are manufactured under licence from foreign companies/countries. HAL is the production agency for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) being developed by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). HAL will also be the production agency for licenced manufacture of SU-30MK-III, depending on the results of the feasibility report. HAL has also received some preliminary responses to its proposal in establishing co-production of 50 seater aircraft.

(c) In the interests of security production targets of aircraft cannot be divulged.

Helicopter shot down in Assam

2365. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the militant gibups that shot down the helicopter carrying Major General Kashev Singh near Kohima in Assam;

(b) whether some rocket was used to shot down the helicopter; and

(c) the sources of rockets and other arms that have come in the possession of the militants in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Army Hqrs. the helicopter crashed due to inclement weather and not on account of shooting down by any militant group.

(c) The militants in Assam are reported to be getting arms from various sources including other militants groups operating in the region.

Induction of ALH into armed forces

2366. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the probable date by when the indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) is likely to be inducted into the armed forces;

(b) the special features of the ALH;

(c) whether the ALH will be used by all the three wings of the armed forces; and

(d) whether ALH would be sold in the international weaponry market also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N. V. N. SOMU): (a) The indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) is likely to be inducted into the Armed Forces during 1998-99.

(b) ALH has several special features as given in the attached statement. (*See* below).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. After initial induction in the Indian Armed Forces, ALH would be sold in the international weaponry market also.

Statement

Special features of ALH

The ALH is a multirole Helicopter which can carry 12 passengers with 2 Pilots in normal configuration. It can carry 14 passengers in high density configuration, whereas for VIPs six seats are provided. It is usable for basic training due to dual control system and duplicate flight instruments. Its Cargo Pallet